

MARY F. JANVIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February 2023
Janvier
Journal



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The Janvier Journal



Mr. Kobik's Corner

The Winter is quickly moving along and I have always found February as a time to look ahead. Thoughts of Spring begin to swirl among the late Winter breeze, the sun's rays feel warmer, and the days are noticeably longer. The school year is rapidly moving by and our children are learning so much! It is amazing when one considers just how much a child develops from the time that they enter Mary F. Janvier Elementary as a Pre K or Kindergarten student to where they are during the late Winter of their 2nd grade year. Certainly, the children have grown in their ability to read, write, comprehend math concepts, gain an understanding of their physical world, and acquire information regarding the maintenance of proper health. Additionally, the children have further developed their social skills and forged relationships that may continue for many years. With this noted, it is important for parents to remember the significance of their relationship with their own children. Whether it is spending time playing a game, eating together, or completing a household project, the time that parents invest with their children will strengthen their relationship with their child. As the years rapidly pass and the challenges of adolescence enter the home, it is the relationship that is forged now that will help both parents and children to overcome future obstacles. One of our goals as a school is to teach the children the power that they have in positive decision – making. Building a foundation that promotes the children identifying their recognition of the impact of their choices towards having a great day, everyday plants the seeds of accountability that will foster responsibility, productivity, and empathy. Throughout the month of February, our school has been focusing on the character trait of “Kindness” and the positive impact that choosing to be kind

can have. Additional activities that have been occurring in our school are highlighted in this edition of the *Janvier Journal*. Of note, you will notice articles that highlight lessons in each of our Related Arts classes and reminders from our School Nurse. Additionally, you will find articles highlighting 100th Day of School and Dental Health Month lessons as well as character study and the use of mental imaging in English Language Arts lessons. With an emphasis towards promoting content connections and relevance as well as developing critical thinking skills, our school continues to foster student growth in a manner that facilitates the children's current and future success. Mary F. Janvier Elementary continues to be a vibrant place filled with the excitement of learning! The Mary F. Janvier Elementary School staff continues to appreciate your support.



What's Happening In Art Class

This month has been super busy for our Janvier Jackrabbit artists, Kindergarten is working on exploring the element of texture and the process of printmaking in their "Love Monster" collages! Students will be finishing these this week by adding a cut paper heart and monster "fuzzies." First Graders just completed their color mixing unit using Model Magic to mold clay beads for rainbow necklaces or keychains. Second Graders are finishing up their color mixing unit with Chris Uphues and Jackson Pollock inspired color

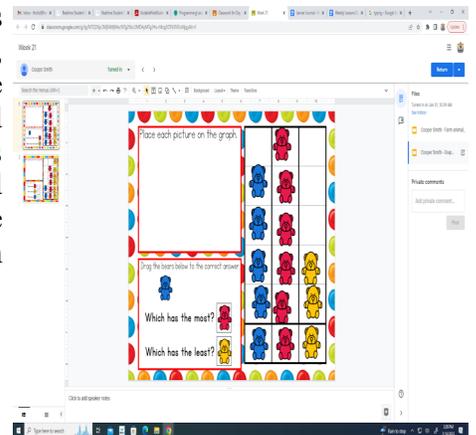
wheels. Students will be adding expressions to their chosen shapes to complete their masterpieces. Next, our students will be looking at the work of African American artists such as Alma Thomas, Faith Ringgold and Romare Bearden to inspire their upcoming creations!



What's Happening In Computer Class

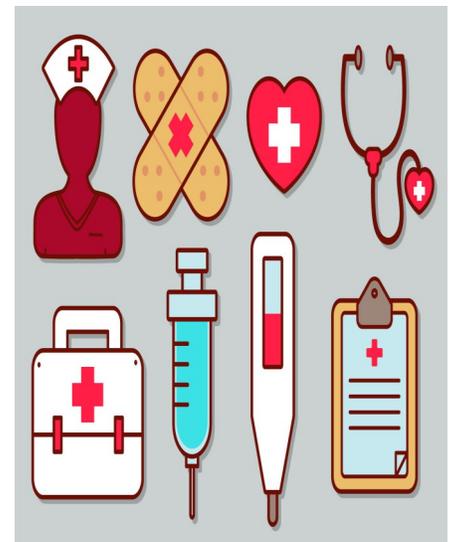
Computer classes have been going smoothly! Kindergarten students are becoming experts at clicking, dragging and dropping, as well as finding letters on the keyboard to form words with the short vowel sound! We will soon be working on using the Shift Key to make capital letters! In 1st Grade, students have been practicing graphing online, writing sentences and adding images and drawings to documents. In 2nd Grade, students have been learning how to use differ-

ent tools on the toolbar. Students are able to add text boxes, change the font, font size and the color. They have also learned how to add and adjust images within a document. The 1st and 2nd Grade students will be learning coding and robotics in the near future.



Nurse's Office Notes

Hi from the Nurse's Office! Flu Season is upon us as well as the Stomach Bug. Make sure you and your family continue to stay healthy. Staying home while you are sick helps stop the spread of germs throughout the school. Those that are sick need to stay home until fever and/or vomiting free for 24 hours. Remember to cover your cough and sneeze! If at any time you have any health related questions, please feel free to reach out! Be well!



What's Happening In Music

February and March are exciting months in Music class at Janvier! 2nd Graders are preparing for their Spring Concert while 1st Grade and Kindergarten are learning about Jazz music. The theme for the 2nd Grade Spring concert is "Creepy Crawlers," so we are preparing songs about butterflies, ants, ladybugs, and a few more! A few topics 1st Grade and Kindergarten students are learning about in our Jazz unit include improvisation, scat singing, keeping beats, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and the Blues.

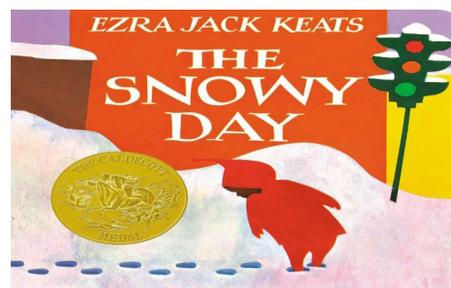


"Snow Better Time To Read" In The Library

The students have been having a wonderful time reading about snow and the cold winter months in the library. Kindergarten classes read the story "Lost In the Snow" by Linda Jennings and have been practicing rhyming words and sight word vocabulary. First Grade students read the Caldecott Medal winner "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats and have been practicing alphabetical order. Second Grade students have been busy reading "The Three Snow Bears" by Jan Brett

and studying the Native American tribe, the Inuit. We have also created snowy pictures and stories of our own. Please place your child's library book back in their backpack each week. Water bottles can damage library books so make sure they are in an outside pocket or place library books in a ziploc bag. While reading, students should be able to locate the title, author, illustrator, spine and call number, as well as determine whether their library book is non-fiction (real) or fiction (fake). Take

a moment at the end of every few pages to discuss the characters, setting and plot of the story together. I am amazed at how much the children have already learned and I look forward to seeing what they can accomplish in 2023!



What's Happening In Gym Class

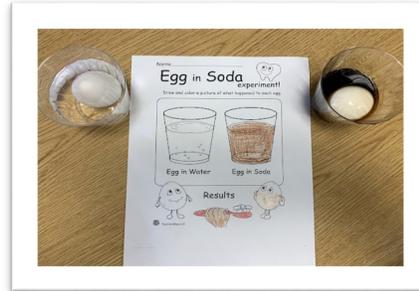
Students at Janvier have been working hard on their manipulative skills throughout the 2nd trimester! We started off with overhand and underhand throwing, worked in some catching, and have moved onto ball rolling! The students will be practicing their ball rolling skills by participating in bowling themed activities! Coming up soon the students will be working on cup stacking and ring toss!



Dental Health Month In Kindergarten

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. In Ms. Wurtz and Mrs. Burkhardt's class, we are learning all about dental hygiene. Our centers, read alouds, and activities are teeth themed. For one of our activities, we sorted foods that are good for our teeth and foods that are not so good for our teeth. We also did an experiment to see how soda affects our teeth. We took two eggs and put them in water and soda. The egg

in the soda turned a light brown color. We concluded that soda is not good for your teeth. Brush, floss, smile!



First Grade Celebrates The 100th Day Of School

The 100th day of school is a great time to pause and acknowledge students' progress. From the first day of school, the children began keeping track of the number of days we've been in school in anticipation of the 100th day! It's this anticipation that is actually the first math lesson. We use straws which become a "ten bundle," paving the way to counting by tens and ones! Students were also able to celebrate using manipulatives in math and creating many different activities and projects. Students were asked to bring in a collection

of 100 items. We also filled in a hundred chart, used patterns to make 100, students wrote and talked about what we would look like when we are 100 years old and if you had \$100.00 what would you spend it on?



A Look Into Our Learning: Second Grade ELA

Wow! What a year it has been for 2nd Graders! 2nd Graders have spent the last couple of weeks on an English Language Arts unit discussing how characters learn and grow from obstacles they face in fiction stories. A recurring question throughout this unit has been, "What can we learn when we face problems?" Students connected to, and deepened their understanding of fiction stories by creating mental images or "movies in their mind" about story elements, such

as characters, setting, problem, events, and solution, when answering questions and retelling the important parts of a story. They have described characters using details from the text and made text-to-self connections when discussing character feelings and their responses to challenges. Students have really worked hard on this unit and we have now begun a brand new thematic unit focusing on Government using non-fiction texts. Please continue to practice reading

with your child and encourage them to make connections, create mental images, and retell the important parts of the story in their own words.

